

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: Hoffman Farm Inventory Number: F-4-132  
Address: 8612 Reno Monument Road City: Middletown Zip Code: 21769  
County: Frederick USGS Topographic Map: Middletown  
Owner: Patrick Garrett Nickoles Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: 121 Tax Map Number: 54 Tax Account ID Number: 03-150674  
Project: DBM-0475-Lamb's Knoll DOE Agency: Maryland Dept. of Budget and Mgmt.  
Site visit by MHT staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property located within a historic district? ☒ yes ☐ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: F-4-17-B  
NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☒ yes Name of District: South Mountain Battlefields: Fox's Gap  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☒ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no  
Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:  
Project File

**Description of Property and Eligibility Determination:** (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

The Hoffman Farm was surveyed in 1998 as part of the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. In 1998, the Hoffman Farm was deemed significant under Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places for its role in the Battle of South Mountain. The Hoffman Farm is located along the Old Sharpsburg Road (Reno Monument Road). Moving east up the Old Sharpsburg Road, the Union forces of General McClellan advanced upon the Confederate positions along the Old Ridge Road at its intersection with the Old Sharpsburg Road. The fields of the Hoffman Farm played host to this advance, which also would have been visible from the house. The Battle of South Mountain was the prelude to the Battle of Antietam three days later, on September 17, 1862. Clashes also occurred at Crampton's and Turner's Gaps.

Alterations have been made to the Hoffman house between 1998 and the present. The two doors on the front façade have been replaced by one central entry, with a paneled metal door and sidelights. The exterior of the house has been clad with vinyl siding, and the porch has been replaced. Nonetheless, the layout, orientation, and essential character of the house and farm remain. Thus, it is still significant as a contributing resource to the South Mountain Battlefields District, under Criterion A, association with historical events. The association of Civil War personalities with the Hoffman Farm is not sufficient to justify it as significant under Criterion B, association with the lives of persons in our past. The house itself, while an example of a

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☒ *PK*  
Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None  
MHT Comments  
*Larry H. Tully*  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services  
*Blunt*  
Reviewer, NR Program  
12/8/03  
Date  
12/12/03  
Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Hoffman Farm

Inventory Number: F-4-132

Page 2

vernacular nineteenth-century farmhouse, is not especially distinguished, and has, additionally, undergone significant twentieth-century alterations, thus disqualifying it under Criterion C. Criterion D, information potential, was not evaluated for this study.

Prepared by: Gerald M. Maready/EHT Tracerics

Date Prepared: 10/20/2003

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

77°37'30"  
39°30'

275000m E

276

277

4375000m N

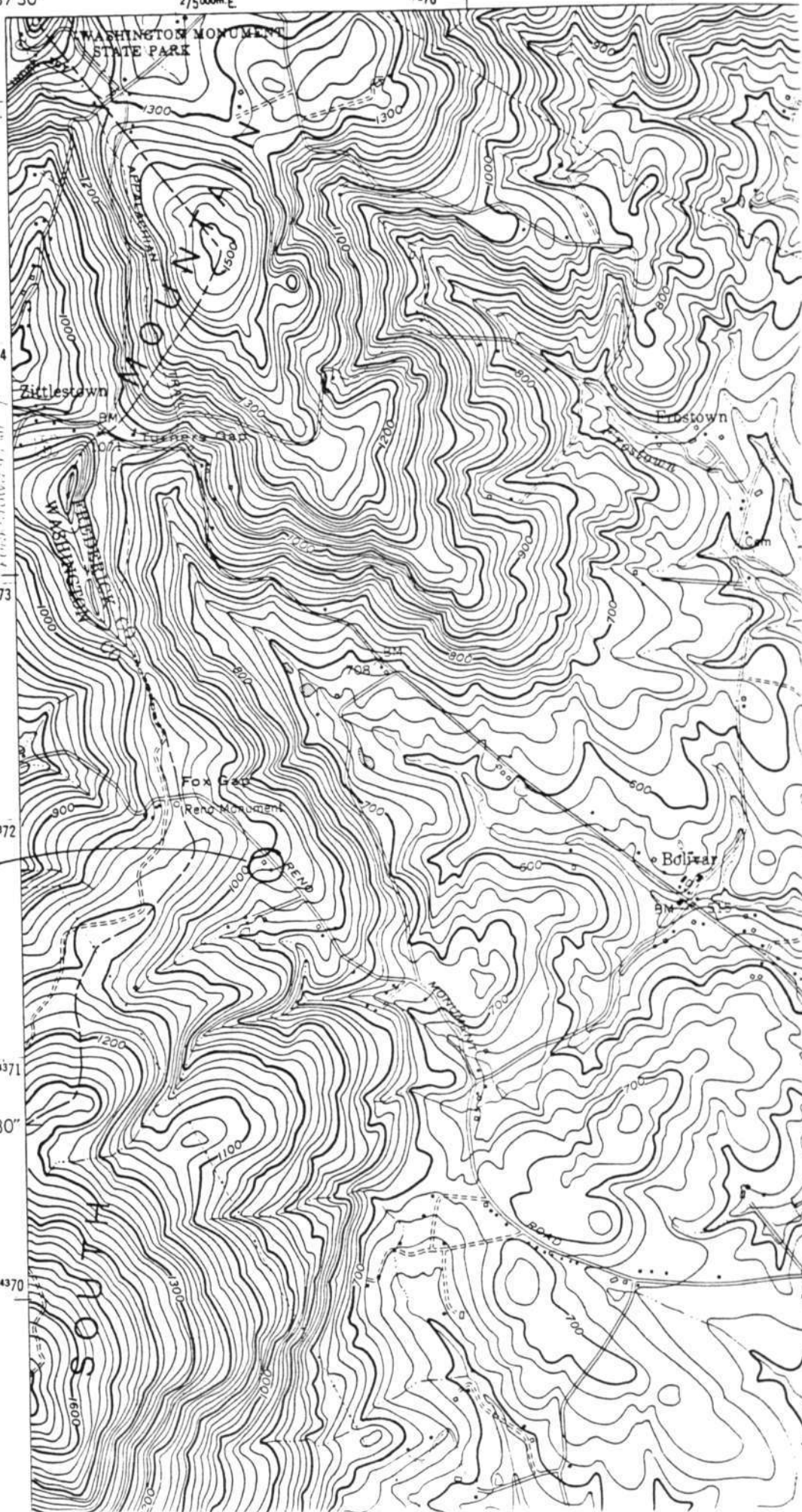
4374

4373

4372

4370

27°30"



F-4-132  
Hoffman Farm  
Middlestown Quad



F-4-17-E

Hoffman Farm (F-4-132), South Mountain Battlefields  
Fox's Gap  
8612 Reno Monument Road

Frederick County, MD

EHT Traces

10/2003

MD SHPO

looking southeast

1 of 1

Survey # F-4-132

Approximate date September 14, 1862

Hoffman Farm

Street Address: 8612 Reno Monument Road

Town, State: Middletown vicinity, MD

private X, public     

This property is included in the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. The J. Hoffman (listed as Coffman in the Deed records) property is a mid 19th century two story log house with limestone foundation in the German vernacular tradition with four bays and two side by side central front doors. It is situated on the south side of Reno Monument Road, facing north near the road's edge, a short distance below or east of the crest. One of the few houses that was located on the Old Sharpsburg Road during the battle for Fox's Gap, it was in the direct line of attack by Willcox's Division of General Reno's IX Corps of the Union army. The house has been altered by the application of asbestos siding and the attachment of several room additions.

The Hoffman House is primarily significant for its role in the Battle of South Mountain. The house was witness to the approach by Union forces to attack Fox's Gap in an effort to dislodge the thin line of Confederate defense. Their objective was to force the Confederates back toward Turner's Gap about one mile to the north, and to take possession of both of those mountain passes. The Confederate objective was to hold the gaps to protect the divided and vulnerable main body of the Army of Northern Virginia which was in the valley to the west of South Mountain. By maintaining possession of the gaps throughout the day, General Lee was able to reassemble the Confederate army near Sharpsburg and prepare for a battle which occurred there a few days later on September 17th. The Hoffman House is secondarily significant as an example of regional vernacular architecture from the mid 19th century, reflecting Germanic building traditions.

Photo Reference: Photo #

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD and Edith B. Wallace  
Woodward-Clyde  
200 Orchard Ridge Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: February, 1998



# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-132

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hoffman Farm

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 8612 Reno Monument Road

☐ not for publication

city, town Middletown

☒ vicinity of

congressional district 6

state Maryland

county Frederick

## 3. Classification

### Category

☐ district)  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

### Ownership

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

### Public Acquisition

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☒ not applicable

### Status

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress

### Accessible

☐ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☒ no

### Present Use

☐ agriculture  
☐ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military☐ museum  
☐ park  
☒ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Patrick Garrett Nickolas

street &amp; number 8612 Reno Monument Road

telephone no.: 301-371-4571

city, town Middletown

state and zip code MD 21769

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse

Liber 1265

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street

Folio 668

city, town Frederick

state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. F-4-132

### Condition

☐ excellent    ☐ deteriorated  
☒ good        ☐ ruins  
☐ fair         ☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The J. Hoffman (listed as Coffman in the Deed records) property is a mid 19th century two story log house with limestone foundation in the German vernacular tradition with four bays and two side by side central front doors. It is situated on the south side of Reno Monument Road, facing north near the road's edge, a short distance below or east of the crest. One of the few houses that was located on the Old Sharpsburg Road during the battle for Fox's Gap, it was in the direct line of attack by Willcox's Division of General Reno's IX Corps of the Union army. The house has been altered by the application of asbestos siding and the attachment of several room additions.

The north elevation of this dwelling is four bays wide with two side by side, panelled front doors. A shed roof porch extending across the front is supported with square posts. German siding is exposed in the porch area, two pointed lintel window treatments have also been preserved in this area. Windows are 6 over 6 replacements all around. A two bay rear addition is obscured by modern construction in progress on the west elevation. A modern brick exterior chimney is the only apparent chimney. The roof is metal.

A small wooden shed is located in the southwest corner of the yard.



## 8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-132

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)	

Specific dates September 14, 1862

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Hoffman (Coffman) House is primarily significant for its role in the Battle of South Mountain which occurred on September 14, 1862. The house was witness to the approach by Union forces to attack Fox's Gap in an effort to dislodge the thin line of Confederate defense. Their objective was to force the Confederates back toward Turner's Gap about one mile to the north, and to take possession of both of those mountain passes. The Confederate objective was to hold the gaps to protect the divided and vulnerable main body of the Army of Northern Virginia which was in the valley to the west of South Mountain. By maintaining possession of the gaps throughout the day, General Lee was able to reassemble the Confederate army near Sharpsburg and prepare for a battle which occurred there a few days later on September 17th. The Hoffman House is secondarily significant as an example of regional vernacular architecture from the mid 19th century, reflecting Germanic building traditions.

The fields surrounding the Peter Beachley (located just south of the Hoffman House) and J. Hoffman (Coffman) Houses saw first the advance of the 30th Ohio under the command of Colonel Hugh Ewing, General Jacob Cox's Kanawha Division and later the advance of Welsh's brigade, General Orlando Willcox's Division. They faced the Rebel 13th North Carolina and Bondurant's artillery with no protection other than the steep angle of the mountain which begins just west of the Beachley House.

Shortly after Scammon's Brigade advanced its line along the Loop Farm Lane, a farm lane which led from the old Sharpsburg Road south, then west to the mountain crest where it joined the Ridge Road, and following the first encounter of the 23rd Ohio Regiment, the 30th Ohio under Col. Ewing began its assault. Colonel Scammon wrote: "On arriving at the foot of the slope in front of the enemy, I sent the thirtieth Regiment, commanded by Col. Hugh Ewing, to attack the left of that position of the enemy which was immediately opposed to us, with orders, if practicable, to seize a battery in that part of the enemy's lines...They were assailed by a shower of grape from the battery, whose real position and strength were not previously known, but they seized and held the crest of the mountain until they nobly bore their part in the charge by our whole line."<sup>1</sup> This charge, emanating from the fields around the Beachley and Hoffman (Coffman) Houses, effectively divided Confederate General

<sup>1</sup>Jay Luvaas and Harold W. Nelson, eds. *The US Army War College Guide to the battle of Antietam and the Maryland Campaign of 1862*, Washington: Harper Collins, 1987, p.19, from O.R., Vol.XIX, Part I, p.461.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-132

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Section Number 8 Page 2

Samuel Garland's thin line of defense by the 13th and 20th North Carolina.<sup>2</sup>

The second wave of advance across the Beachley and Hoffman farms came during the afternoon battle following the reinforcement of both armies. Brigadier General Orlando Willcox, sent to reinforce Cox's Division, quickly moved along the old Sharpsburg Road and established his line across the open fields of the two farms connecting Cox's men on the left to Cook's Battery and the 17th Michigan on the right of the old Sharpsburg Road. Cook's guns were set to silence the artillery firing from the knoll to the right of the National Pike. The infantry hoped to push the remaining Confederates north and west beyond Turner's Gap. The placement of Bondurant's Battery in Wise's north field and the tenaciousness of Hooker's Division on the north Ridge Rd. held the Federals in check until darkness brought an end to the battle.<sup>3</sup>

The Hoffman House is secondarily important as a mid 19th century Germanic log house constructed in the window, door, door, window facade arrangement. This house type is common in the region which includes central Maryland, south central Pennsylvania and the Cumberland Valley. With most examples dating from the mid 19th century or later, they are derived from the German continental house form where the front door opens directly into the kitchen. In the two front door type, of which this house is an example, one door typically opened into the service (kitchen side of the house and the other provided access to the formal part of the house (parlor). The Hoffman House is of log construction, the preferred wooden structural system in the region, with exterior finishes dating from the late 19th century and later. The German siding and pointed window architraves, remnants of which are visible at the front porch, suggest application in the 1880s, approximately.

In Frederick County deed records, this property is recorded under the name Coffman, rather than Hoffman, although the name Hoffman is used in the historic Civil War Maps. The house does not appear on the 1858 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County. According to Frederick County deed records, James W. Coffman acquired this property from William Slifer on April 2, 1849 (Liber WBT 10, Folio 361). Forty years later, on April 3, 1889, he sold it to Jonas Gross (WIP 9, 148). It remained in the Gross family until December of 1925 when it was acquired by William W. and Annie M. Beachley.

<sup>2</sup>Scott D. Hartwig, "My God, Be Careful! The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap," *Civil War Regiments*, Campbell CA: Savas Publishing Co., 1997, map, p. 50.

<sup>3</sup>War College Guide, p.38, from O.R., XIX, Part I, p.428

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-132

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Section Number 8 Page 3

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Military

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-132

### Books

- Hartwig, D. Scott, Civil War Regiments, A Journal of the American Civil War, Vol 5, #3, "Antietam, the Maryland Campaign of 1862". Article entitled "My God, Be Careful! The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap", Savas Publishing Co., Campbell, CA, 1997.
- Luvaas, Jay and Harold W. Nelson eds., The U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, The Maryland Campaign of 1862, Harper Collins Publishers, Washington, 1987.
- Murfin, James V., The Gleam of Bayonets, The Battle of Antietam and Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign, September 1862, Thomas Yoseloff, New York, 1965.
- Roth, Dave, "The General's Tour of South Mountain", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Schildt, John W., The Ninth Corps, At Antietam, Chewsville, Maryland, 1988.
- Sears, Stephen W., "Fire On The Mountain, The Battle of South Mountain September 14, 1862", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.
- Sears, Stephen W., Landscape Turned Red, The Battle of Antietam, Ticknor and Fields, New York, 1983.
- Stotlemeyer, Stephen R., The Bivouacs of the Dead, The Story of Those Who Died at Antietam and South Mountain, Toomey Press, Baltimore, 1992.
- Swinton, William, Army of the Potomac, Smithmark Publisher, New York, 1995.
- U.S. War Department, The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol XIX, Parts I and II, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1880-1901.

### Manuscripts

- Frye, Dennis, National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.
- Wren, Capt. James, Diary manuscript, Antietam National Battlefield Library

### Maps

- The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, Plate 27, Gramercy Books, New York, 1983.
- Engineers Maps, 1862, National Register Nomination, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.
- Macombe Map, 1861.

F-4-132

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References DO NOT COMPLETE UTM REFERENCES

B 

F 

Figure 1 shows three sets of vertical lines, each representing a measurement. The first set has two lines, the second has three, and the third has four. Each set is labeled with a number 1, 2, or 3 below it. The lines are connected by horizontal lines, forming a continuous sequence.

The property of 6.5 acres fronts on the north boundary on Reno Monument Rd. The house is situated directly on the road frontage. On Tax Map 54, Parcel 121.

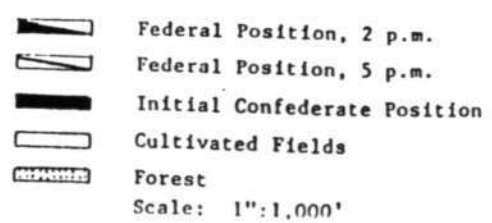
state	code	county	code
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## state MD 20878

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
People's Resource Center  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7000



N





5463 II SW  
(FUNKSTOWN)

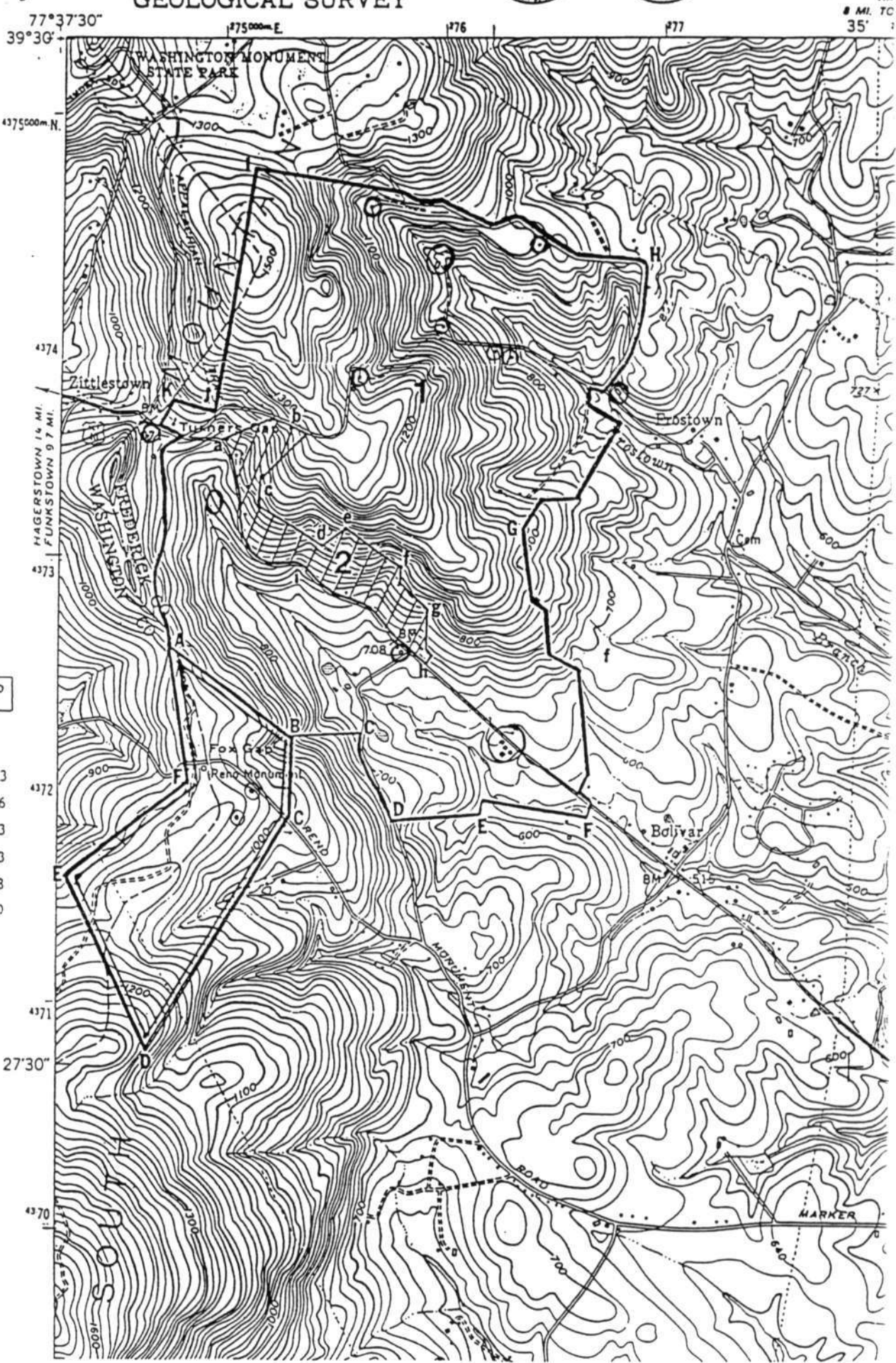
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



F-4132

10-6

NA  
8 MI. TO  
35'



FOX'S GAP

UTM REFERENCES

- A: 18/274784/4372623
- B: 18/275333/4372196
- C: 18/274312/4371863
- D: 18/274662/4370813
- E: 18/274287/4371588
- F: 18/274875/4372000

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

77°37'30"  
39°30'

275000m E

276

277

4375000m N

4374

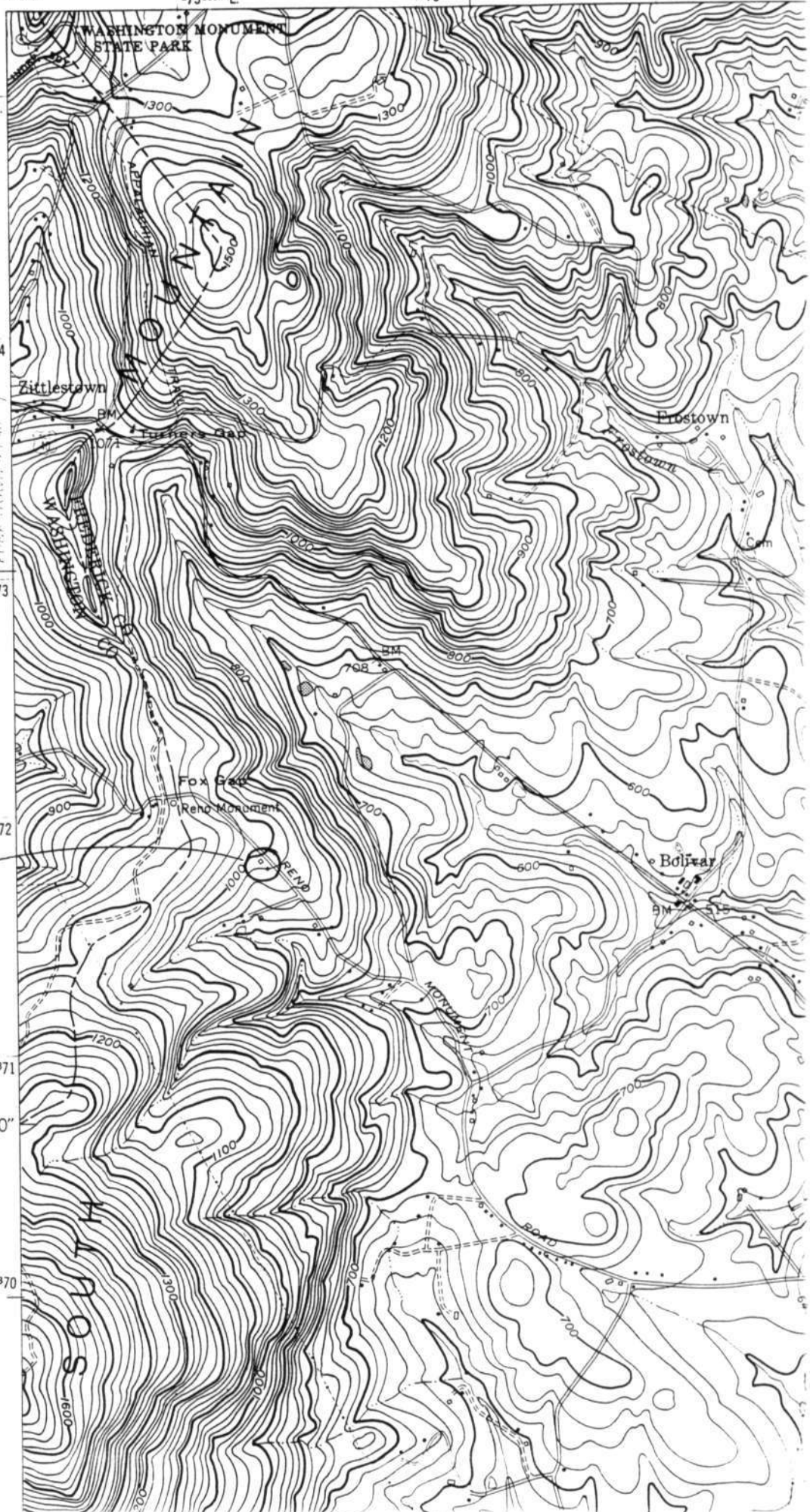
4373

4372

4371

27°30"

4370



F-4-132  
Hoffman Farm  
Middletown Quad



F-4-132

J. Hoffman House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

18 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

NW elevation of house

1/2





F-4-132

J. Hoffman House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

18 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view SW of property overall

NE elevation of outbuildings

2/2